

terminology has been used to a large extent, the old and better known names have been inserted in brackets wherever it was thought necessary to avoid confusion. Black-faced type and italics are used to indicate and emphasize the chief headings and the particular part or organ under consideration. The work is worthy of recommendation to all.

F. E. B.

Alveolodental Pyorrhea. By Charles C. Bass, M. D., Professor of Experimental Medicine, and Foster M. Johns, M. D., Instructor in the Laboratories of Clinical Medicine at the Tulane University Medical College, New Orleans, La. Octavo volume of 167 pages, with 42 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1915. Cloth, \$2.50 net.

This book has been written with the distinct purpose of placing before the profession the theory that pyorrhea alveolaris is caused by the animal parasite or protozoan known as the endameba buccalis and that ipecac or its alkaloid emetine hydrochloride is the specific remedy for the disease.

Smith and Barrett of Philadelphia were the first to promulgate these views, but they were much less emphatic in their statements than are the authors of the book under review.

The interest which has been created in the subject by the researches of the above-named investigators and the authors of this book is very great indeed and the profession everywhere, both medical and dental, are asking if these statements are true.

There is only one way to prove the truth or falsity of these claims and that is by practical tests conducted along scientific lines. Many practitioners at the present time are employing ipecac and emetine in an empirical manner and are making many absurd claims as to their specific action.

The claim of the authors that the disease is "practically universal" and that "all sooner or later lose their teeth" (from this cause) "if they live long enough" are statements made without sufficient evidence. Carefully compiled statistics covering many thousands of examinations would be necessary to prove this contention.

That ipecac or emetine is a specific in this disease is also lacking in proof. At least a sufficient number of cases have not as yet been published to establish the fact.

The presence of endameba buccalis in the mouth does not necessarily mean that the individual has pyorrhoeal alveolaris, nor that the presence of this organism in a pyorrhea pocket is proof that it is the cause of the suppurative process. Bacteria of many varieties are found in the same pus. Why then, single out the endameba and insist that it is the specific cause?

The reviewer has found the endameba (living, motile specimens) in the scrapings from healthy gums, from the dorsum of the tongue, from the discharges from the nose, from the discharges of a dento-alveolar abscess involving the antrum, and also from the accumulation of food debris at the margins of the gums. Craig has also found it in dental caries. But in all of these cases prodigious numbers of bacteria of various forms were also found.

The book, however, is well worth reading, albeit there are many statements in it in relation to dental pathology particularly, to which the dental profession will take issue.

The name "Alveolodental Pyorrhea" adds another term of designation to an already overburdened nomenclature of this disease, and we are not sure that it is any better than those now in use. We question the advisability of using so many drawings of "pathologic conditions" when photographs would have been so much better and would have eliminated the personal equation entirely.

J. S. M.

SOCIETY REPORTS

FRESNO COUNTY.

The regular meeting of the Fresno County Medical Society was held September 7th, at the offices of Drs. Trowbridge and Craycroft. A good attendance of members, from our own and adjoining counties, was present to listen to the following program:

"Operative Treatment of Spinal Tuberculosis," by Dr. Walter I. Baldwin of San Francisco, and "Nervous Affections of Children," by Dr. Harold W. Wright of San Francisco. Dr. Baldwin exhibited a number of instructive X-rays and one very interesting and successful case. Dr. Wright urged the importance of careful diagnosis and treatment in order to save children who are out of the ordinary from being classed as hopelessly below par. He also urged the importance of systematic training for all defectives, no matter if only slight progress can be made. Both papers were greatly appreciated and were of distinct value to the society.

CLIFFORD D. SWEET,
Assistant Secretary.

ORANGE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The September meeting of the Orange County Medical Association was held on September 7, 1915, with a fairly good attendance.

Dr. Granville MacGowan gave a fine paper on "Local Anesthesia."

After the meeting a social lunch was enjoyed.

R. A. CUSHMAN, Secretary.

PLACER COUNTY.

The September meeting of the Placer County Medical Society was held Saturday evening, September 11, 1915, in the Masonic Hall, Colfax. There were present the following members and visitors: Members—Drs. Fay, Mackay, Couture, Miner, Sawyer, C. P. Jones, Bush, McCullough, H. T. Rooney, Peers. Visitors—Drs. J. T. Cox and F. R. Fairchild, Sacramento; J. L. Rollins and C. D. Durand, Colfax.

Dr. Miner and Dr. Jones reported cases.

Dr. Thos. J. Cox, Sacramento, read a paper entitled, "Surgery of Bones." Discussed by Drs. Fairchild, Mackay, Sawyer and Cox.

Dr. F. R. Fairchild then read a paper on "X-ray in Surgical Diagnosis," illustrated by means of lantern slides. Discussed by Drs. Cox, Bush, Peers and Fairchild.

After adjournment refreshments were served by the local physicians.

The next meeting will be held in October in Auburn.

ROBERT A. PEERS, Secretary.

John Emmett Thompson; Western Reserve University, Ohio, 1888; aged 57; Oculist and Aurist; Fellow of the American Medical Association; for many years on the staff of Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco; member of many fraternal and benevolent organizations; died from typhoid fever at his home in Berkeley, California, August 26, 1915.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY.

During the month of August, 1915, the following meetings were held:

Section on Medicine, Tuesday, August 3d.

1. The Wassermann Test in Newborn Infants. Langley Porter. Discussed by E. Vectors (who reported a series of 129 Wassermann tests on pla-

cental blood at Mary's Help Hospital), and L. I. Breitstein.

2. The Incidence and Diagnosis of Congenital Lues. W. P. Lucas.

3. The Treatment of Congenital Lues. Hans Lissner. Discussed by H. H. Yerington and Langley Porter.

General Meeting, Tuesday, August 10th.

ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL CLINICAL EVENING.

1. Large Extradural Abscess—Streptococcus Mucosus Infection. C. F. Welty. Discussed by H. D'Arcy Power.

2. Pain and Deformity. C. C. Crane. Discussed by J. T. Watkins.

3. Retroperitoneal Lymph Cyst. Report of Case of Gastropexy Treated by Rovsing Method. Burt Stevens. Discussed by J. R. Graves.

4. Exhibition of Pathological Specimens. B. Jablons.

A. Spleen showing numerous stones.

B. Tumor of brain.

C. Carcinoma of cecum having origin at head of cecum.

D. Gas gangrene.

5. Exhibition of Roentgen Plates. M. P. Burnham.

A. Carcinoma of pylorus; gastrectomy.

B. Stone in gallbladder.

C. Carcinoma of colon.

Section on Surgery, Tuesday, August 17th.

1. Presentation of Cases. Dr. Emmet Rixford.

A. Fracture of femur.

B. Osteomyelitis of very vicious character, showing regeneration of bone after removal of shaft.

C. Case showing effect of transplantation of full thickness of skin from chest to second and third fingers, surface of which was destroyed by electrical burn.

D. Anterior dislocation of semilunar at wrist.

E. Fracture of neck of radius at elbow in child.

2. Reports of Cases of Aneurysm; with demonstration of two cases. George Rothganger. Discussed by F. Dudley Tait.

3. Reports of Cases of Hypertrophic Pyloric Stenosis in Infants. Demonstration of a Case. Stanley Stillman. Discussed by Langley Porter, A. Gates, F. D. Tait and Alanson Weeks.

Section on Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat, Tuesday, August 24th.

1. Demonstration of Cases.

A. Adult operated for congenital cleft palate. H. Horn.

B. Case operated for congenital choanal, occlusion on right side. H. B. Graham.

2. The Larynx in Tuberculosis Patients. H. S. Moore. Discussed by H. Horn, K. Pischel, H. B. Graham, C. F. Welty and H. Y. McNaught.

3. Operative Technic in Carcinoma of the Larynx. W. I. Terry. Discussed by H. Horn, K. Pischel, S. T. Pope and M. E. Taber.

4. Observations on the Technic of Bronchoscopy and the Removal of Foreign Bodies. H. B. Graham. Discussed by S. T. Pope and M. E. Taber.

Section on Urology, Tuesday, August 31st.

1. The Prognosis of Prostatitis. M. E. Silverberg. Discussed by W. P. Willard, M. Krotoszyner, M. Wolff and W. E. Stevens.

2. Seminal Vesiculotomy; Indications and Technic; with Report of Cases. Frank Hinman. Discussed by C. W. Lippman, W. P. Willard, J. Rosenstirn, M. Molony and M. Krotoszyner.

3. Report on Cases of Sarcoma of the Testicle. W. P. Willard. Discussed by F. Hinman, J. Rosenstirn, F. D. Tait and M. Krotoszyner.

IN ERRATA.

Through an error in the September program of the San Francisco County Medical Society, the name of Dr. D. B. Plymire was included in the list of deceased members.

FLIES AND DIARRHEAL DISEASE.

Publication No. 91, New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor.

The Bureau of Public Health and Hygiene of the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor has issued a special publication entitled, "Flies and Diarrheal Disease," descriptive of its three months' study in the homes of over a thousand infants in New York City on the relation of flies and diarrheal disease. Special attention has been given such influencing factors as dirt and artificial feeding, and their relative importance determined. A full description of the study with its important conclusions may be obtained by request from Philip S. Platt, Superintendent of the Bureau, 105 East 22d street, New York, N. Y.

TUBERCULOSIS FIGHT IN SAN FRANCISCO.

At the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the San Francisco County Medical Society, it was voted, "that the San Francisco County Medical Society endorse the proposition of the San Francisco Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis, to have the City establish a special Bureau of Tuberculosis under the auspices of the San Francisco Board of Health."

This action by the physicians came as a result of the report recently made to the Department of Public Health by the Tuberculosis Association, revealing conditions in the city and urging that a division of the department be created to fight the "White Plague."

This bureau, according to the report, would establish clinics for free examination of positive and suspected cases; engage visiting nurses to care for and instruct patients and their families in the home, and take general charge of the campaign.

The Association reasons that tuberculosis is essentially a problem in public health and should be supported by public funds.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by FRED I. LACKENBACH.

(Devoted to the advancement of Pharmacy and its allied branches; to the work of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association, and to matters of interest bearing upon therapeutic agents offered to the medical profession. The editor will gladly supply available information on matters coming within the scope of this Department.)

LEUKOCYTIC EXTRACT—ITS PREPARATION AND USES.*

By ARTHUR R. MEINHARD, June 1915.

It is now a well established fact that one of the chief forms of protection of the animal body to bacterial invasion is through the action of certain of the white-blood cells or the so-called phagocytic cells. These cells which are easily able to wander through the walls of the blood vessels, are drawn

* Read before the Scientific Section of the 63d Annual Meeting of the American Pharmaceutical Association, San Francisco, August, 1915.